

**Statement of Mr Sarkout Mahmoud**  
**Kurdish Organizations Network Coalition for the International Criminal Court**  
**(KONCICC) [www.koncicc.org](http://www.koncicc.org)**

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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Representatives of Government, States Parties, NGOs, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great privilege to contribute to this conference on behalf of Kurdish Organizations Network Coalition for the International Criminal Court. The Anfal genocide was committed during the Al-Anfal campaign led by Ali Hassan al-Majid, on the orders of President Saddam Hussein, against Iraqi Kurdistan in northern Iraq in the final stages of the Iran–Iraq War. The term, “Anfal,” means "the spoils," and was taken from the title of Sura 8 (al-Anfal) in the Qur'an.

As a planned process, it was one of the main strategic methods to exterminate Kurds and eliminate the roots of Kurds. It was to destroy and ruin the demographical Kurdistan and Kurdish culture.

The campaigns were characterized by mass summary executions and the mass disappearance of many tens of thousands of noncombatants, the vast majority civilians; the widespread use of chemical weapons; the wholesale destruction of some 2,000 villages, including homes, schools, mosques, churches and wells; the arbitrary arrest and jailing in conditions of extreme deprivation of thousands of women, children and elderly people; the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of villagers; and the destruction of the environment and the rural Kurdish economy and infrastructure. Only 13 victims survived from Anfal, and 9 out of 13 are alive today.

Anfal was committed from February 23 to September 6, 1988 in eight stages and damaged more than 31 Assyrian and Christian villages. Also, four districts, 30 sub-districts, 2,027 Mosques, 100 churches, and 1,344 primary and secondary schools were damaged; 152 Assyrian, Chaldean and Christians, and 183 Yazidi were all victims.

Human Rights Watch roughly estimates casualties to have been somewhere between 50,000 and 100,000; Hasan Majed reported 100,000.

During the Anfal campaign 152 villages were attacked by chemical weapons at least 48 times, and the city of Halabja was also attacked.

The Halabja chemical attack was a massacre against the Kurdish people that took place on March 7, 1988. The attack killed more than 5,000 people and injured 7,000 to 10,000.

Most of survivors have not been treated medically nor psychologically; they have been suffering from pain and misery since 1988. Due to Covid-19, survivors are suffering from breathing difficulties or shortness of breath.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your kind attention, would kindly ask for more serious initiatives from the international community to legally prohibit such genocidal weapons.